

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] Referring generally to FIG. 2, in a further exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the lever 112 may be covered by a molded or co-molded plastic part 122 for purposes including comfort, locking, and UL listing. In another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the lever including the molded or co-molded plastic part 122 may automatically lock against a boot covering a casting 124 when a user grasps the boot covering the casting 124 and the lever 112 in the course of normal gripping action. This locking action may be accomplished through the use of a locking device 105 such as an interference protrusion engaged when the pin 110 is in the locked position and engages the shoe bracket 104. ~~This locking action may also be accomplished through the use of, a plurality of teeth, a plurality of teeth and grooves, a friction interface, and the like, as contemplated by one of ordinary skill in the art.~~